

## United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4305

July 21, 2007

Mr. Kevin Washington  
Director  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, SW Room 8-C453  
Washington, District of Columbia 20554

Dear Director Washington:

I would like to express my support for the application submitted to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) by the Texas Health Information Network for Communities (THINC) to participate in the FCC's Rural Health Care Pilot Program which would improve access to health care services for hundreds of thousands of citizens residing in underserved areas of Texas.

As you and your staff review the proposal, I trust you will give full consideration to the many strengths of this application. As you know, THINC, whose incorporation is dependent upon the FCC's approval of this application, is a not-for-profit organization responsible for the governance, management and operation of a statewide health information network that will allow rural health providers to connect with necessary medical and educational services at urban medical centers to improve access to care and enhance patient safety and quality.

Organizers of THINC include the Texas Organization of Rural and Community Hospitals (TORCH), The University of Texas Medical Branch, Texas A&M Health Science Center, CHRISTUS Health (Irving), St. Joseph's Health System (Bryan), Baptist-St. Anthony Health System (Amarillo) and CA-Coast (Coastal Bend) Health Network.

The combined health care delivery sites include more than 100 rural hospitals, 150 rural health clinics, 200 non-rural community hospitals, and two academic medical centers from the Texas Panhandle to the Rio Grande Valley to the Gulf Coast to far West Texas. Participation is open to any Texas health care provider, and it is anticipated that additional hospitals and health systems will join the THINC network as soon as its application is approved.

Thank you for your assistance and consideration.

Sincerely,

  
JOHN CORNYN  
United States Senator

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